Record and Play Command Files

INTRODUCTION

Most powerful software systems have a built-in language that provides additional levels of power and functionality to complement and enhance a graphical user interface. EnSight is no exception. Any action that you can perform with the mouse or keyboard has a counterpart in the EnSight command language. A sequence of commands can be saved during a session to automate repetitive or tedious tasks. Command files can be automatically executed on EnSight startup to initialize the system to a desired state. Execution of command files can also be bound to keyboard keys for user-defined **macros**.
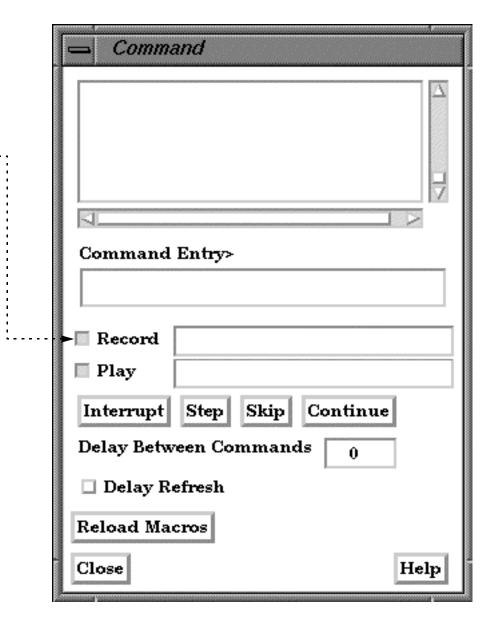
BASIC OPERATION

During an EnSight session, all actions are recorded and saved to a file known as the default command file. This file name typically starts with "`ensigDAA`" and is saved in `/usr/tmp` (unless you have redefined your `TMPDIR` environment variable). The default command file can be saved (and renamed) when exiting EnSight.

Recording Commands

To record a series of commands:

1. **Select File > Command... to open the Command dialog.**

2. **Toggle the Record button on.**

3. **A File Selection dialog opens. Select the desired file to save commands to and click Okay.**

4. **When you wish to stop recording, toggle the Record button off.**
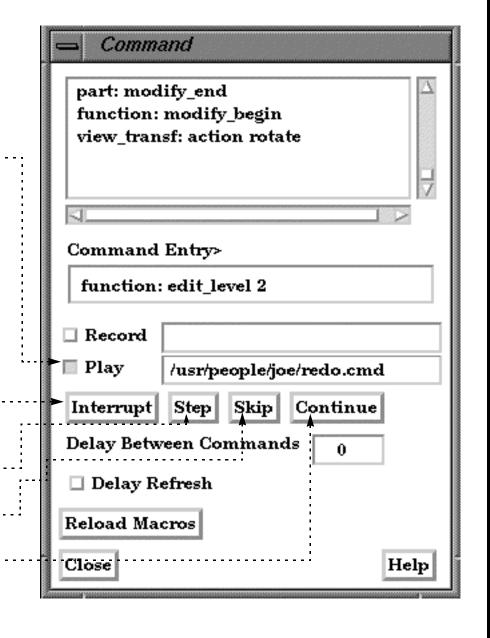
Playing a Command File

To replay a command file:

1. **Select File > Command... to open the Command dialog.**

2. **Toggle the Play button on.**

3. **A File Selection dialog opens. Select the desired command file and click Okay.**

You can control command execution by interrupting the playback. Once playback is stopped, you can single step through commands or even skip commands.

1. **To stop command execution, click the Interrupt button.**

2. **To single-step through the commands, click the Step button.**

3. **To skip a command, click the Skip button.**

4. **To continue execution, click the Continue button.**

Note that the next command to be executed is shown in the Command Entry field. You can also enter commands to be immediately executed in this field.

Command

```
part: modify_end
function: modify_begin
view_transf: action rotate
```

Command Entry>

`function: edit_level 2`

☐ Record

☐ Play `/usr/people/joe/redo.cmd`

[Interrupt] [Step] [Skip] [Continue]

Delay Between Commands `0`

☐ Delay Refresh

[Reload Macros]

[Close] [Help]

Playing a Command File on Startup

You can execute a command file as part of EnSight startup:

1. Use the "-p command_file" option when you start EnSight. For example,

```
% ensight7 -p redo.cmd
```

where `redo.cmd` is a command file saved in a previous session.

ADVANCED USAGE

Command files are simple ASCII text and can be edited with any text editor. To easily determine the command for a given action, open the Command dialog and watch the list at the top as you perform various operations. Keep in mind that the successful execution of some commands depends on the proper state existing at the time of execution. For example, creating a part when the parent part (as referenced by the part number) does not exist will cause an error.

Command files can be nested: if you have a file that performs a certain task, you can "call" that command file from another file with the "`play: filename`" command. An `exit:` command will cause EnSight to quit.

OTHER NOTES

Command files provide an excellent method of documenting problems or potential bugs encountered during your use of EnSight. The command file can be transmitted to CEI electronically to help determine the nature of the problem.

See Also

How To Define and Use Macros

User Manual: **Command Files**